

strengthen infrastructure of the one-stop delivery system, eliminate duplication, improve accountability, enhance the role of employers, and increase states' and local areas' flexibility.

This reauthorization provides an opportunity to build on and improve the current WIA system so that it can respond quickly and effectively to the changing needs of both workers and employers and further address the needs of special populations. It is designed to promote productive workforce development programs connected to the private sector, post-secondary education and training, and economic development systems in order to enhance the career opportunities and skills of the 21st century workforce. Our goal is to improve the locally driven system to ensure we provide the tools to meet local workforce development needs.

Title II of this Act is the Adult Basic Skills Act, to reauthorize state programs for adult education. The adult education program currently serves 2.7 million adults, almost half who are immigrants whose first language is not English. The program also serves those who are working to get a GED or its recognized equivalent, or are preparing for higher education. Adult basic education programs across the country are offered through schools, community centers, libraries, public housing, community colleges, and volunteer organizations, both public and private, profit and non-profit.

This bill makes changes to current law, and places more of a focus on the delivery of the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, and math. Additionally, we have sought to ensure that instructional practices are based on scientific research. Provisions have been included to increase accountability for States and local providers to have measurable results in improving basic skills, GED graduates, and those entering higher education. It is important that there be increased coordination with the business community, and Labor Department programs.

The bill also makes improvements to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which provides services to help persons with physical and mental disabilities become employable and achieve full integration into society. The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) title of this bill enhances and improves transition services, which promote the movement of a student served under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) from school to post-school activities. This legislation also requires States to include in their State plans an assessment of the transition services provided through the VR system and of how those services are coordinated with such services under IDEA. Also included in the State plan are strategies the State will use to address the needs identified in the assessment of transition services described above.

I look forward to working with the members of the Committee, other member of Congress, the Administration, and all stakeholders as we work to a craft legislation that will build upon and improve the systems we created in 1998 and continue to empower individuals in enhancing their career opportunities and skills in our 21st century workforce. I urge my colleagues to join me and the other original co-sponsors in support of the Workforce Reinvestment and Adult Education Act of 2003.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SAM KARAS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sam Karas. He passed away on February 26, in Monterey, California. He was an actor, an activist, a salesman, a storyteller, a singer, a dancer, a father, a husband and most notably, a friend. He is survived by his wife, Edie, his three daughters Penelope Lockhart, Judith Karas, and Rachel Holz, and four grandchildren.

Sam was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, by a poor family of Greek immigrants. Growing up he loved three things: "The Shadow" pulp novels, apple pie and basketball. Upon graduating from high school, he moved to Monterey to serve as a 2nd lieutenant in the United States Army during World War II. Despite lacking a college education, Sam was able to quickly rise to the rank of 1st lieutenant, and his enrollment in the armed services was the beginning of what would be a lifelong dedication to public service.

Among others, Sam served on the board of trustees of the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District and was one of the original organizers and board members of the Human Rights Commission. Sam also served with the California Coastal Commission, the Natividad Medical Center Foundation, the Monterey Jazz and Pop Festivals, the Wharf Theater, the Monterey Film Commission, the California Film Commission, and the Monterey Peninsula College board of trustees. In addition, the ACLU, the NAACP, Monterey County, the Sierra Club, and the Carmel Meat Company, which he founded, have honored him.

Sam started this small meat company shortly after marrying his wife Edie in Monterey in 1944, and he sometimes cooked large pots of stew for the homeless along the railroad tracks. Owning this company gave him many other opportunities to reach out to the homeless, a cause that remained close to him over the next half a century and spurred him to become entrenched in the Monterey community.

It was frequently said that Sam represented the wrong communities of Monterey County, as he was mostly concerned with issues such as poverty and health care—issues pertinent to the Salinas Valley, not the Monterey Peninsula. Sometimes the trivial complaints of his constituents bothered him, but that was Sam's character: he wanted to help the people that truly needed helping. A smooth-talking, glad-handing politician he was not. Sam often came at his opponent with disheveled hair, fraying suits and sweaters, and a penchant to comment bluntly, but he never shied away from confrontation. He had an innate sense of right and wrong, and he pursued justice doggedly. He wanted the best for everybody.

The Central Coast of California has mountains and beaches, but on behalf of this House, I wish to celebrate the life of Sam Karas: a man whose spirit made Monterey County a scenic paradise and a more just society.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL TO MR. OTHO STONE

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, on March 22, 2002 I had the distinct pleasure of presenting the Bronze Star Medal to one of my veteran constituents. Today, it is with deep sadness I would like to inform you and my colleagues that Mr. Otho Stone passed away last Friday. Mr. Stone was a WW II veteran who loved his country and served with honor and dignity. He received the honor of the Bronze Star while seeing action against our enemies during WW II.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Stone asked for no special recognition for serving his country but he did ask that our country keep the promises made to all veterans who have served this great nation.

For their service and sacrifices our nation's soldiers and veterans deserve our eternal gratitude.

I know that Mr. Stone would be proud when I say that the men and women who have served our country so honorably know best that freedom is never free, that it is only won and defended with great sacrifices.

And we should honor all our veterans by keeping our promises to them.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WENDELL TAYLOR BUTLER

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my constituent, Mr. Wendell Taylor Butler and the contribution he made to our country during World War II as a contributor to the Manhattan District Project.

On January 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, approved a top-secret effort to produce an atomic weapon. An unprecedented alliance of industry, academia and government was formed, and in just twenty-seven months, the atomic bomb was produced. Over 140,000 men and women, both civilian and military, worked together in secret communities throughout the United States. Relatives could not even be trusted with the knowledge of their whereabouts or the type of work they were doing. These individuals represent the ingenuity, determination, and patriotic commitment that led our Nation to victory in World War II.

Mr. Butler was employed at Linde Air Products in Tonawanda, New York. This particular facility was used by the government for laboratory and pilot plant studies for uranium separation. The work accomplished at his location was vital for the successful completion of the project.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Wendell Taylor Butler and the other men and women who remained at home to design, develop, and implement the discoveries of the Manhattan Project. Their dedication and devotion to our national security allowed them to carry out one of the most epic engineering